
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**April 24, 2007
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation Conformity Working Group held its meeting at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Amatya, Naresh	SCAG
Asuncion, John	SCAG
Cheng, Herman	Metro
Del Rosario, Sheryll	SCAG
Gomez, Carol	SCAQMD
Hu, Hsi-hwa	SCAG
Huddleston, Lori	Metro
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
Mann, Betty	SCAG
McAllister, Brad	Metro
Nadler, Jonathan	SCAG
Poe, Lisa	SANBAG
Sherwood, Arnie	ITS UC Berkley/SCAG

Via Teleconference:

Alameddine, Sam	Caltrans District 7
Bergner, Jennifer	OCTA
Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County APCD
Gallo, Ileen	Caltrans Headquarters
Ewing, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Gallo, Eileen	Caltrans Headquarters
Noch, Michelle	FHWA
Mazur, Jean	FHWA
O'Conner, Karina	EPA District 9

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Brad McAllister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no comment

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1 Approve March 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes

A MOTION to MOVE the minutes. MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, reported that staff has completed Draft Amendment #3 to the 2004 RTP. On April 5, 2007, the Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC) delegated the authority to the Executive Committee to release the Draft Amendment #3 to the 2004 RTP for a 30-day public review and comment period. The statutory deadline to make changes to the current RTP under the old statute is July 1, 2007. Therefore, SCAG must adopt and submit this amendment to FHWA prior to this date. In order to meet this deadline, the draft must be released for a 30-day public comment period by early May.

Draft RTP Amendment #3 addresses projects proposed to be added to the existing 2004 RTP in response to Proposition 1B, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, a roughly \$20 billion transportation bond approved by California voters on November 7, 2006. One element of Proposition 1B was the \$4.5 billion Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) program, which aims to improve performance on highly congested travel corridors. Draft RTP Amendment

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#3 focuses on priority projects identified by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the SCAG region at its meeting held February 28, 2007, as well as additional project revisions requested by the County Transportation Commissions and Caltrans.

Staff has determined that the proposed Amendment to the 2004 RTP would not result in either new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Therefore, inclusion of the proposed projects would be consistent with the analysis and mitigation measures contained in the 2004 PEIR, as well as the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations made in connection with the 2004 RTP. Additionally, the regional emissions analysis performed for this RTP Amendment determined projects identified in this current Amendment would not result in an increase of established emissions budgets within the South Coast Air Basin.

The draft will be taken to SCAG's Executive Committee on May 3rd for authorization of its release for 30-day public review and comment. A required public hearing, tentatively scheduled for May 9, 9-10 a.m. at the SCAG office, will also be held during the 30-day comment period. At the conclusion of the 30-day public review and comments, staff will document all comments and responses and incorporate them into the Final Amendment #3 that will be presented to the TCC and the Regional Council for adoption on June 7, 2007.

4.2 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, provided an RTIP update to the TCWG. Mr. Asuncion first discussed the RTIP Gap Analysis. In order to ensure compliance with the SAFETEA-LU requirements by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2007 a Gap Analysis was deemed necessary so that the RTIP Amendment process may continue without disruption. The Gap Analysis will address any deficiencies in the RTIP to make it compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements. The RTIP Gap Analysis was approved by the Regional Council on April 4, and has been sent to Caltrans for approval. FHWA's certification would mark the successful completion of the SAFETEA-LU compliance process as it will take place prior to the established statutory deadline of July 1, 2007. As intended, the certification

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of the RTIP Gap Analysis to the 2006 RTIP would alleviate the Region of its exposure to adverse impacts from amendment restrictions and potential delays to project delivery.

Mr. Asuncion stated that the 30-day public review for RTIP Amendment No. 6 (Formal Amendment) will end on May 25th. This Amendment will then be submitted to Caltrans and the federal agencies for their approval.

The RTIP Amendment No. 8 will also be taken to SCAG's Executive Committee on May 3rd for authorization of its release for 30-day public review and comment period. This Amendment incorporates projects in RTP Amendment No. 3. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 9 at the SCAG office. RTIP staff will work with the RTP staff to compile comments for the June 7th Regional Council approval.

4.3 Modeling Validation

Hsi-hwa Hu, SCAG, reported on the process of model development and the schedule for the model validation. Peer review is a major part of the model development process and its purpose is to assess the travel demand modeling practice. The peer review group reviews the SCAG Model Improvement Program and makes recommendations of future model enhancements. There were three past model peer review meetings. In November 2003, the group reviewed the work plan. In April 2004, the group reviewed the validation targets and initial review of model components. In January 2006, there was a final review and recommendations. A Validation Working Group reviews the draft validation report.

The highlights of the new SCAG travel demand model were also discussed. The model covers the entire SCAG region. As discussed, the previous model did not. The new model network is GIS based and P.C. based. In the model validation process, staff calibrated to the year 2000 travel behavior, compared to the household survey data for the year 2000, and also validated to year 2003 travel statistics.

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There are several new elements in the new model. The first is an update of the passenger travel demand model, including an update of the trip generation model, more detailed social economic data, new vehicle availability models, and new trip production models. There is also a new heavy-duty truck model which has new port trips, new external models, and new enhanced generation and distribution models.

On March 28, 2007, SCAG's modeling staff presented initial validation results to the Modeling Task Force. Since then, the model has been improved and will be released this week for review and comments. The final model validation report will be presented to the Modeling Task Force and the TCWG next month.

4.4 AQMP Update

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District: Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, briefly discussed the Air Quality Management Plan for Ventura County. The draft 2007 AQMP presents Ventura County's strategy for attaining the federal 8-hour ozone standard. The 2007 AQMP is due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by June 15, 2007. The 2007 AQMP also presents the District's 2003 – 2005 Triennial Assessment and Plan Update required by the California Clean Air Act of 1988. Its purpose is to evaluate the County's progress towards meeting the state 1-hour ozone standard.

The photochemical modeling and attainment demonstration is not complete. District staff will incorporate the photochemical modeling and attainment demonstration into the draft 2007 AQMP when it is available, extend the public review period, and reschedule the Board hearing for the draft 2007 AQMP and associated Negative Declaration. The Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for July.

South Coast Air Quality Management District: Carol Gomez, SCAQMD, stated that the AQMP is still scheduled to go to the SCAQMD Board on May 4. However, it is likely to be postponed until the June meeting. There will be a meeting of Board and Regional Council members of SCAQMD, SCAG, and ARB on April 30 to discuss unresolved issues.

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4.5 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

The TCWG considered four interagency review forms to determine whether the projects were of air quality concern and required a qualitative PM Hot Spot analysis. The review concluded the following:

ORA020110: Pending - Additional information requested from project sponsor. Project will be resubmitted to the TCWG at the May 22, 2007 meeting.

SBD031315: POAQC - Requires Qualitative Hot Spot Analysis

LA0D399: Pending - Additional information requested from project sponsor.

LA0D73B: Not a POAQC - Hot Spot Analysis not required

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

No new items to report.

6.0 INFORMATION SHARING

SR 60 HOV Lane Conversion: Karina O'Connor, EPA, believed that the substitute project is close to concurrence. Jean Mazur, FHWA, disclosed that a few engineering issues arose. FHWA has requested that ARB and EPA hold off on the project until the engineering issues are resolved.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

Brad McAllister, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:05 p.m.

**The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on
Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.**